



February 15, 2022

Michael Stepovich
543 2nd Ave Ste A
Fairbanks, AK 99701

John J. Tiemessen
411 4th Ave Ste 300
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Howard Lazar
1007 W 3rd Ave Ste 300
Anchorage, AK 99501

re: Nixola Jean Doan, individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Tristana Laurene Doan v. Banner Health, Inc., d/b/a Fairbanks Memorial Hospital; Northern Hospital Association, LLC; James W. Cagle, D.O.; Golden Heart Emergency Physicians; and Faye Lee, M.D.; Supreme Court Case No. S-18331

Dear Counsel:

Chief Justice Winfree has asked me to remind the parties that he gave notice regarding potential conflicts in earlier matters arising from the same trial court case as the instant matter. No objections to his participation in the earlier matter were received, and Chief Justice Winfree assumes there are no objections to his participation in the current appeal. Should there be an objection, it must be filed by March 1, 2022, and it must set forth the specific facts and law supporting the objection.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Kentch
Deputy Clerk

Encl.

In the Supreme Court of the State of Alaska

Nixola Jean Doan, individually,

Appellant,

v.

Banner Health, Inc., et al.,

Appellees.

Supreme Court No. S-16322

Order

From Justice Winfree
Regarding Objections to His
Participation in this Matter

Date of Order: August 30, 2016

Trial Court Case # 4FA-13-01538CI

As the parties no doubt are aware, the facility known as Fairbanks Memorial Hospital is owned by The Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation, Incorporated, a non-profit entity. For decades The Hospital Foundation has leased the facility to a non-profit hospital operator who, through mergers and name changes, now is Banner Health, Inc. Without detailing specifics, throughout those decades there has been a close working relationship between The Hospital Foundation and the hospital operator.

Beginning in the early 1990s I became The Hospital Foundation's outside counsel — there was no inside counsel — and I worked with The Hospital Foundation in that capacity for about 15 years. In March of 2006 I became the Executive Director & General Counsel for The Hospital Foundation, closing my law practice. I stayed in that position until shortly after my November 2007 appointment to the Alaska Supreme Court.

During my many years with The Hospital Foundation my wife and I made significant financial contributions during fund-raising campaigns, such as for the Denali Center and the Fairbanks Cancer Treatment Center. My wife and I are Lifetime

Members of The Hospital Foundation. I count current staff members and many of the Board of Trustees of The Hospital Foundation as long-time friends (and some are former clients). In short, my relationship with The Hospital Foundation would preclude me from sitting on a case directly affecting its interests.

During my many years with The Hospital Foundation I also had considerable dealings with Banner Health. Those dealings were both adversarial and collaborative, often at the same time. But I did not represent Banner Health and did not have the same kind of relationship with Banner Health that I had with The Hospital Foundation. And because my last day with The Hospital Foundation was December 31, 2007, it seems very unlikely that anything I worked on could have anything to do with the present case as it relates to Banner Health. I am generally aware that Banner Health will cease being the hospital operator at the end of 2016, and I am generally aware from public comments by The Hospital Foundation's representatives that this situation arose from a sense of diverging interests. I have not spoken to The Hospital Foundation's staff or any member of the Board of Trustees about the specifics of this situation.

I believe I can be fair and impartial to the parties in this case. I do not believe I know Nixola Jean Doan. I do not believe I have any relationships with Northern Hospital Associates, Golden Heart Emergency Physicians, Interior Aids Association/~~Project Special Delivery, or any of the individual defendants/respondents.~~


Nothing about my work with The Hospital Foundation or my understanding of The Hospital Foundation's relationship with Banner Health gives rise to any personal bias for or against Banner Health. And this case's outcome does not appear to me to have any direct impact on The Hospital Foundation. I therefore intend to participate in this matter.

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On the other hand, if Ms. Doan, Banner Health, or any other party is concerned that my long history with The Hospital Foundation may have some impact on my impartiality in this case, it would not necessarily be unreasonable. Accordingly any party opposed to my participation in this matter may file an objection setting out the specific facts, reasons, and authorities relied on for the ground(s) urged for recusal, and I will consider that objection. Any such objection is due by September 12, 2016.

ENTERED at the direction of Justice Winfree.

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Clerk of the Appellate Courts


Marilyn May

Distribution:

Michael A Stepovich
Stepovich Law Office
543 Second Avenue Suite A
Fairbanks AK 99701

John J Tiemessen
Clapp Peterson Tiemessen Thorsness & Johnson, LLC
411 4th Ave Ste 300
Fairbanks AK 99701

Howard A Lazar
Delaney Wiles Inc.
1007 W 3rd Ave Ste 400
Anchorage AK 99501

Ryan Stuart
Law Office of Ryan A. Stuart
750 W. 2nd Avenue, Suite 105
Anchorage AK 99501

William M. Wuestenfeld
Jermain Dunnagan & Owens PC
3000 A Street Ste 300
Anchorage AK 99503